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DAREDEVIL

TM

a Bchry Scan

SEVENTY YEARS AGO

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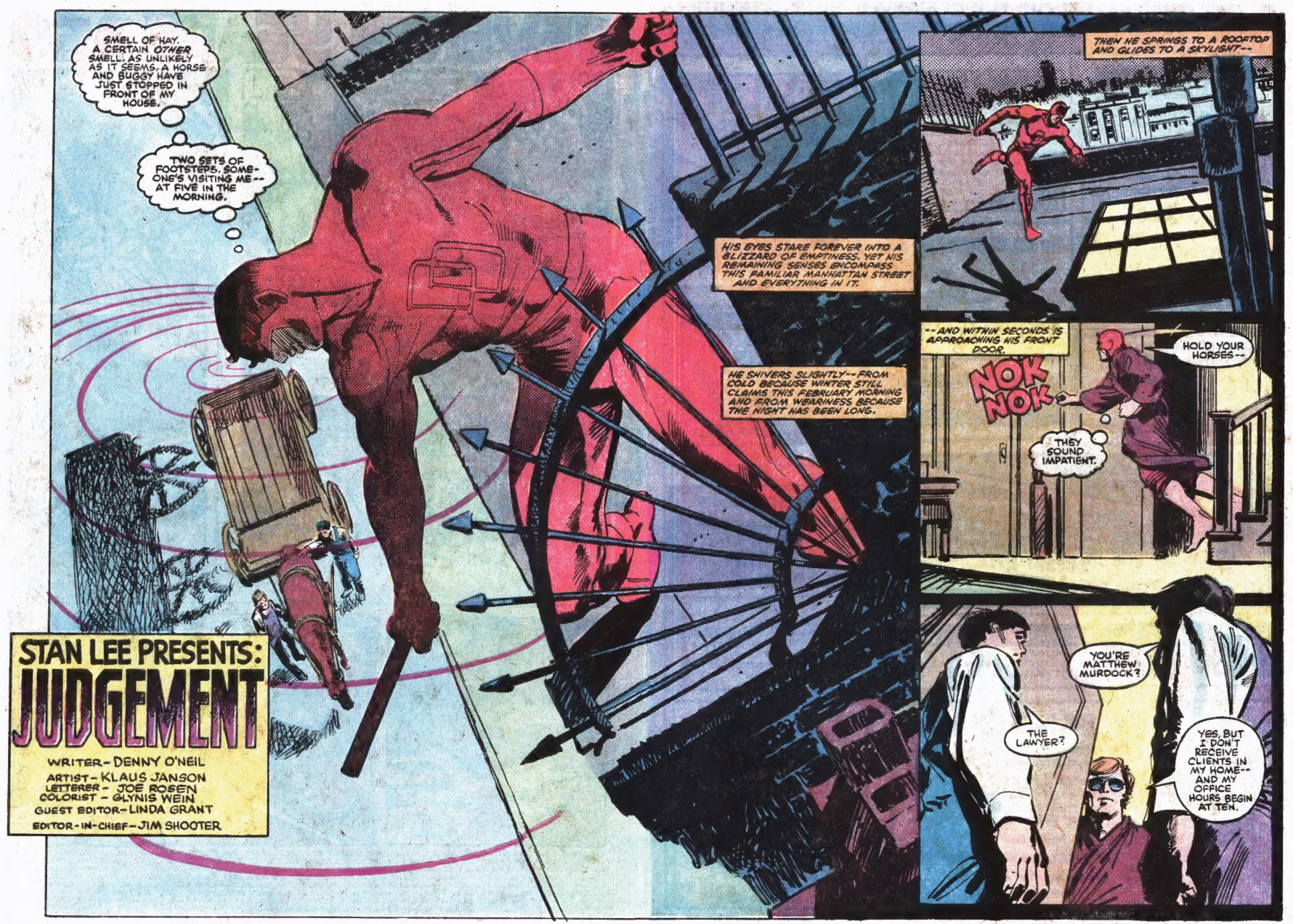
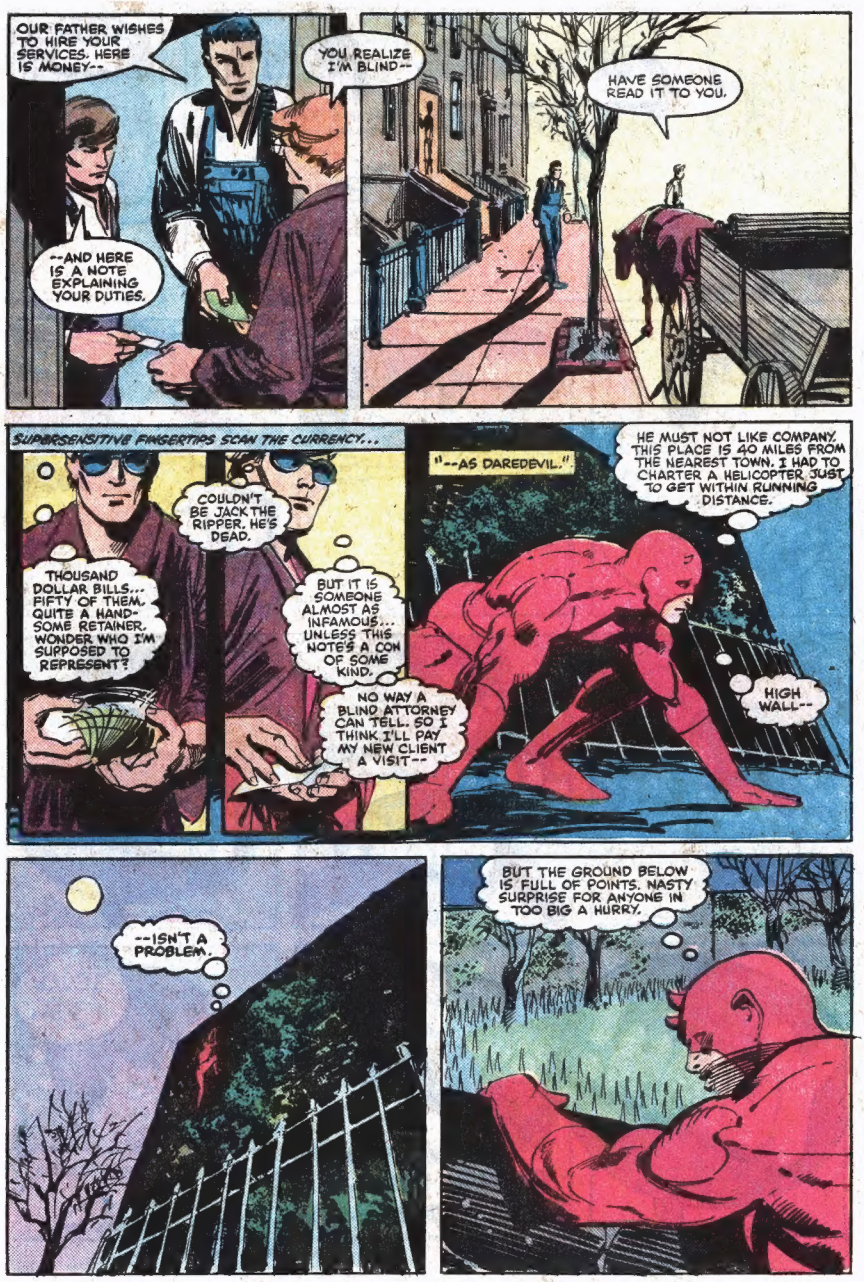

SMELL OF HAY. A CERTAIN OTHER SMELL. AS UNLIKELY AS IT SEEMS, A HORSE AND BUGGY HAVE JUST STOPPED IN FRONT OF MY HOUSE.
TWO SETS OF FOOTSTEPS. SOMEONE'S VISITING ME-- AT FIVE IN THE MORNING.
HIS EYES STARE FOREVER INTO A BLIZZARD OF EMPTINESS. YET HIS REMAINING SENSES ENCOMPASS THIS FAMILIAR MANHATTAN STREET AND EVERYTHING IN IT.
HE SHIVERS SLIGHTLY-- FROM COLD BECAUSE WINTER STILL CLAIMS THIS FEBRUARY MORNING AND FROM WEARINESS BECAUSE THE NIGHT HAS BEEN LONG.
THEN HE SPRINGS TO A ROOFTOP AND GLIDES TO A SKYLIGHT--
--AND WITHIN SECONDS IS APPROACHING HIS FRONT DOOR.
NOK NOK
HOLD YOUR HORSES--
THEY SOUND IMPATIENT.
YOU'RE MATTHEW MURDOCK?
THE LAWYER?
YES, BUT I DON'T RECEIVE CLIENTS IN MY HOME-- AND MY OFFICE HOURS BEGIN AT TEN.
STAN LEE PRESENTS:
JUDGEMENT
WRITER- DENNY O'NEIL
ARTIST- KLAUS JANSON
LETTERER- JOE ROSEN
COLORIST - GLYNIS WEIN
GUEST EDITOR- LINDA GRANT
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF- JIM SHOOTER


OUR FATHER WISHES TO HIRE YOUR SERVICES. HERE IS MONEY--
--AND HERE IS A NOTE EXPLAINING YOUR DUTIES.
YOU REALIZE I'M BLIND--
HAVE SOMEONE READ IT TO YOU.
SUPERSENSITIVE FINGERTIPS SCAN THE CURRENCY...
THOUSAND DOLLAR BILLS... FIFTY OF THEM. QUITE A HANDSOME RETAINER. WONDER WHO I'M SUPPOSED TO REPRESENT?
COULDN'T BE JACK THE RIPPER. HE'S DEAD.
BUT IT IS SOMEONE ALMOST AS INFAMOUS... UNLESS THIS NOTE'S A CON OF SOME KIND.
NO WAY A BLIND ATTORNEY CAN TELL. SO I THINK I'LL PAY MY NEW CLIENT A VISIT--
"--AS DAREDEVIL."
HE MUST NOT LIKE COMPANY. THIS PLACE IS 40 MILES FROM THE NEAREST TOWN. I HAD TO CHARTER A HELICOPTER JUST TO GET WITHIN RUNNING DISTANCE.
HIGH WALL--
--ISN'T A PROBLEM.
BUT THE GROUND BELOW IS FULL OF POINTS. NASTY SURPRISE FOR ANYONE IN TOO BIG A HURRY.

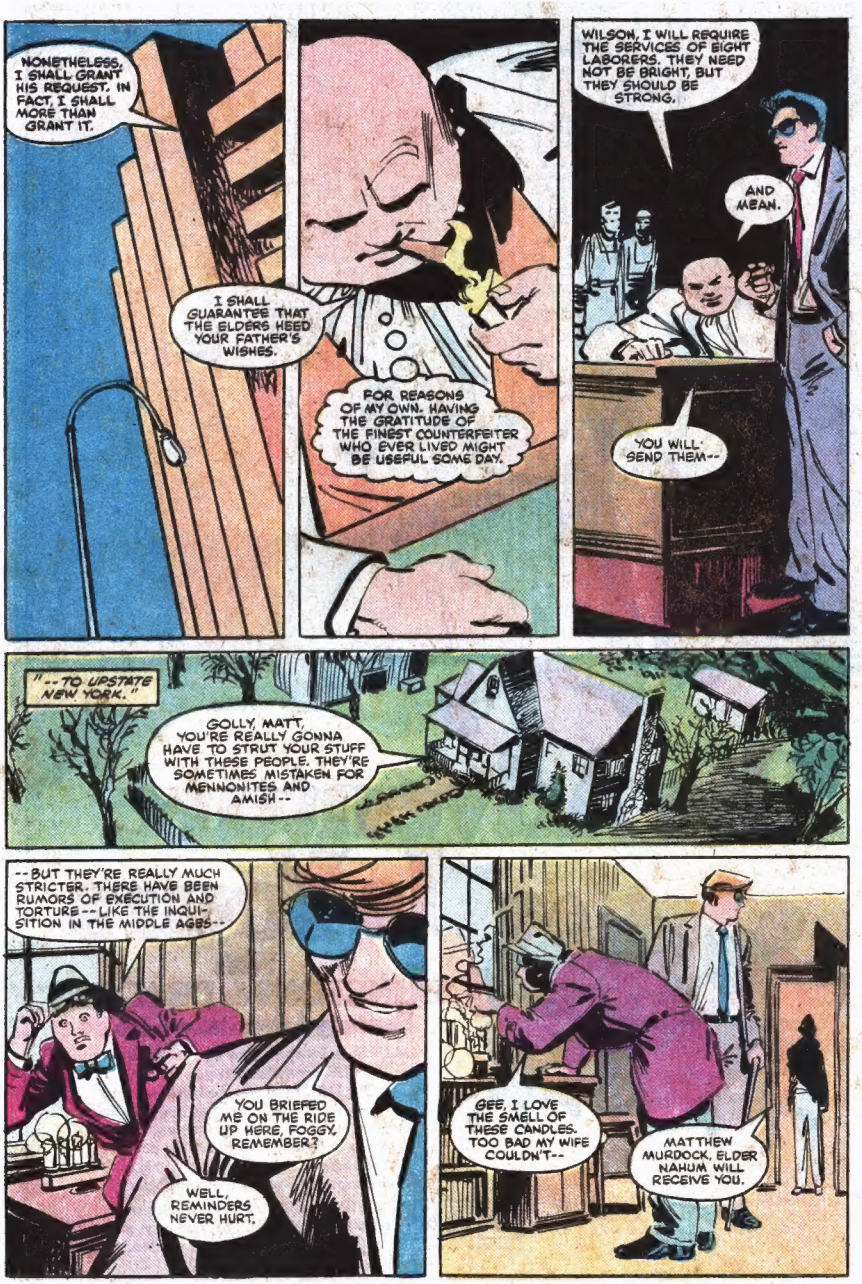
PRETTY CRUDE TRAP, THOUGH.
I'D EXPECT A BIG-TIME CROOK LIKE JEREMIAH JENKS TO PLANT LAND MINES OR USE AN ELECTRONIC ALARM.
FUN'S NOT OVER YET! I HEAR PAWS ON THE GRASS ... A SLIGHT PANTING.
A GUARD DOG... THE NASTY KIND THAT'S TRAINED NOT TO BARK A WARNING--
--THE KIND THAT'S TRAINED TO KILL!
I HATED THAT. THE POOR BEAST WAS ONLY DOING WHAT IT HAD TO.
BUT I COULDN'T TAKE ANY CHANCES. I'M NOT SURE HOW TO SUBDUE A DOBERMAN WITHOUT KILLING IT.
AROOOO

WAS THAT THE DOG?
MUSTA BEEN.
FELL DOWN A HOLE?
STUPID DOG.
ODD...I HAVEN'T SENSED ANY TELEPHONE OR ELECTRICAL WIRES LEADING TO THE HOUSE.
AND THEY WOULDN'T BE UNDERGROUND THIS FAR OUT IN THE COUNTRY.
YET I'VE HEARD JENK EARNED SEVERAL MILLION ILLEGAL DOLLARS WHILE HE WAS ACTIVE--
--AND IF HE COULD AFFORD TO BUILD THIS PALACE, HE COULD CERTAINLY AFFORD TO EQUIP IT WITH THE MODERN AMENITIES.

GLASS IS SLIGHTLY WARM--
--WHICH GIVES ME MY STARTING PLACE, I GUESS.
MATTHEW? JOHN? IS THAT YOU?
IS THAT YOU, BOYS?
NO, I'M NOT ONE OF YOUR SONS. WE HAVEN'T MET.
BUT I KNOW WHO YOU ARE. DAREDEVIL, RIGHT? AND, AS YOU ARE AWARE, I AM JEREMIAH JENK.
I CAN'T SAY I'M PLEASED TO MAKE YOUR ACQUAINTANCE, BUT COME IN--
--COME AND WARM YOURSELF.
I WOULDN'T WANT TO ARREST YOU EVEN IF I WERE A LAWMAN --WHICH I'M NOT, EXACTLY.
YOU WANT TO ARREST ME? YOU HAVEN'T HEARD I'M RETIRED?
I'M HERE ON BEHALF OF THE ATTORNEY, MATTHEW MURDOCK. HE'D LIKE TO KNOW THE *REAL* REASON YOU HIRED HIM.
REAL REASON? EH? THE REAL REASON WAS IN THE NOTE. I'M AN OLD MAN. I'M DYING. I CAN *FEEL* MYSELF DYING SECOND BY SECOND.
AND I'VE MUCH TO ATONE FOR, OH YES. THE COUNTERFEIT BILLS I MADE-- THEY CAUSED DEGRADATION AND SUFFERING AND MURDER.

WORSE, WHEN I WAS NOT YET GROWN I STRUCK DOWN MY OWN FATHER WITH A LOG OF WOOD. THE SIN IS UNPARDONABLE.
THE COUNCIL OF ELDERS OF THE CONGREGATION OF RIGHTEOUSNESS--THE SACRED CONGREGATION IN WHICH WE ABIDE AND WHICH IS OUR SALVATION--
--THEY CONDEMNED ME TO DEATH AND I FLED TO THE CITY--
--WHERE I USED THE TALENT SATAN GAVE ME--THE MAKING OF IMAGES--TO FOSTER A LIFE OF SHAME AND EVIL.
BUT ALWAYS, I REMAINED ONE OF THE CONGREGATION IN MY HEART. I RAISED MY SONS IN THE HOLY WAYS, AND NOW I MYSELF HAVE REPENTED. I HAVE FORSAKEN THE WICKEDNESS OF THE MODERN WORLD.
I EAT SIMPLE FOOD. I BURN CANDLES SENT TO ME FROM A CONGREGATION FARM. I PRAY.
HIS PULSEBEAT IS STEADY. HE'S TELLING THE TRUTH.
I RETAIN ONLY MY GLASSES--
--I CANNOT BEAR TO GIVE THEM UP.
I UNDERSTAND.
MORE THAN YOU CAN KNOW.
WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM MURDOCK?

HE SHOULD PLEAD WITH THE ELDERS TO TAKE ME BACK... TO PUNISH ME AND IN PUNISHING, TO FORGIVE.
--PERHAPS HIS GREAT SKILL AT ARGUING CAN SOFTEN THE ELDERS' WRATH.
DON'T COUNT ON IT. THAT'S NOT MURDOCK'S KIND OF LAW. BUT HE'LL DO HIS BEST--
MURDOCK WAS ABLE TO FREE MELVIN POTTER--A MASS MURDERER--
--AND LATER PROBABLY ASK HIMSELF WHY.
AIR! I ALMOST GAGGED IN THERE... THE STENCH FROM THOSE CANDLES... THE MUSTINESS... THE OVERWHELMING SENSE OF-- TORMENT.
IT'LL BE A RELIEF TO SUCK IN THE POLLUTION OF GOOD OLD MANHATTAN.
MEANWHILE...
POPPA?
THE DOG--
NEVER MIND THAT. GET THE BUGGY. I HAVE ANOTHER errand FOR YOU IN THE CITY. YOU ARE TO SEE AN OLD ASSOCIATE OF MINE--
"--THE KINGPIN."
SO YOUR FATHER WANTS PROTECTION UNTIL THIS COUNCIL MEETS. HE WAS APPROACHED BY DAREDEVIL, AND HE FEARS THAT IF THE MASKED MAN COULD BREACH HIS DEFENSES, ANYONE COULD.
HE UNDERESTIMATES DAREDEVIL.


NONETHELESS, I SHALL GRANT HIS REQUEST. IN FACT, I SHALL MORE THAN GRANT IT.
I SHALL GUARANTEE THAT THE ELDERS HEED YOUR FATHER'S WISHES.
FOR REASONS OF MY OWN. HAVING THE GRATITUDE OF THE FINEST COUNTERFEITER WHO EVER LIVED MIGHT BE USEFUL SOME DAY.
WILSON, I WILL REQUIRE THE SERVICES OF EIGHT LABORERS. THEY NEED NOT BE BRIGHT, BUT THEY SHOULD BE STRONG.
AND MEAN.
YOU WILL SEND THEM--
"--TO UPSTATE NEW YORK."
GOLLY, MATT. YOU'RE REALLY GONNA HAVE TO STRUT YOUR STUFF WITH THESE PEOPLE. THEY'RE SOMETIMES MISTAKEN FOR MENNONITES AND AMISH--
--BUT THEY'RE REALLY MUCH STRICTER. THERE HAVE BEEN RUMORS OF EXECUTION AND TORTURE--LIKE THE INQUISITION IN THE MIDDLE AGES--
YOU BRIEFED ME ON THE RIDE UP HERE, FOGGY, REMEMBER?
WELL, REMINDERS NEVER HURT.
GEE, I LOVE THE SMELL OF THESE CANDLES. TOO BAD MY WIFE COULDN'T--
MATTHEW MURDOCK, ELDER NAHUM WILL RECEIVE YOU.

YOU'RE NAHUM?
BE AWARE THAT YOU ARE NOT WELCOME, MATTHEW MURDOCK. SPEAK YOUR PIECE AND QUICKLY, FOR I HAVE NEITHER TIME NOR PATIENCE TO WASTE ON YOU.
I'M HERE ON BEHALF OF JEREMIAH JENK--
THAT NAME IS CURSED AND SHALL NOT BE UTTERED IN THIS PLACE.
HE WHO IS THUS NAMED WAS CONDEMNED TO PAY THE FINAL PRICE SEVENTY YEARS PAST--
--AND ONCE DEATH HAS BEEN DECREED BY THE COUNCIL, THE DECREE CAN NEVER BE RESCINDED.
YOUR RULES ARE HARSH--
DO NOT SPEAK TO ME OF HARSHNESS-- YOU WHO LIVE IN THE INIQUITY OF WHAT LIES BEYOND OUR LAND!
WE HAVE NO CRIME. WE HAVE NO VIOLENCE. WE HAVE NO DIVORCE. OUR PEOPLE WALK IN PEACE ALL THEIR DAYS ON EARTH.
EXCEPT THOSE WHO MAKE A MISTAKE. THEM YOU JUDGE WITHOUT A TRIAL--
YEA, AND ACT ON THAT JUDGEMENT WHEN GRANTED THE OPPORTUNITY--
--FOR THE BOOK SAYS, "YE SHALL BE SMITTEN, YE WHITED WALL--"
--AND THE BOOK SAYS, "VENGEANCE IS MINE--"
BOY! SOUNDS LIKE THEY'RE REALLY GOING AT IT.

HEY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? YOU'RE ONE OF THE KINGPIN'S THU--
THUDD
GNNH!
FOOTSTEPS. FIVE MEN, THREE WEARING RUBBER SOLES. A GROAN FROM FOGGY. A FALLING BODY --AGAIN FOGGY.
IF YOU HAVE NOTHING FURTHER--
GOT TO MAKE IT LOOK GOOD... AS THOUGH THE POOR BLIND MAN'S STUMBLED--
BE CAREFUL!
--AND IN FLAILING ABOUT ACCIDENTALLY DOUSED THE FIRE...
...FILLING THE ROOM WITH SMOKE, COVERING MY SWITCH TO DAREDEVIL.
MUST BE THROUGH THERE! GRAB THE FIRST GUY YOU SEE--
--AND STOMP ANYBODY ELSE!

HOW DARE YOU?
WANNA SEE HOW I DARE, POPS?
THIS IS HOW!
ANNGH!
MGMF!
LOOK... SOMEBODY DROPPED HIM!
MAX, WHAT'RE YOU DOIN'?
DON'T FEEL NEGLECTED, PUNK! YOUR TURN WILL COME.
UNN!

WHAGF!
MORE STRANGERS ENTERING THE HOUSE OF ELDER NAHUM.
SMOKE COMING FROM THE WINDOW, TOO.
WE HAD BETTER SEE ABOUT IT.
WHAT'S GOIN' ON?
TUNGK
GNKK!
I AM--
--AND YOU'RE GOING OUT!
I GOTCHA IN MY SIGHTS...

BUT BEFORE THE GUNMAN CAN FIRE, DAREDEVIL FLINGS HIS CLUB AND--
TONK
THEN...
OLD WOOD'S DRY... BURNING LIKE TINDER. THERE ARE OTHERS INSIDE.
WE WILL GET THEM.
THEY'RE BOTH HURT. TAKE CARE OF THEM--
--I'LL FIND MURDOCK!
SOON...
THE OUTSIDER IS STILL STRICKEN. WE WILL DO OUR BEST FOR HIM.
THANKS.
GLAD YOU'RE RECOVERING, NAHUM.
LEAVE-- OR FEEL OUR RIGHTEOUS WRATH!
YOU HAVE BROUGHT STRIFE TO OUR LAND, MATTHEW MURDOCK. AND CONFUSION!

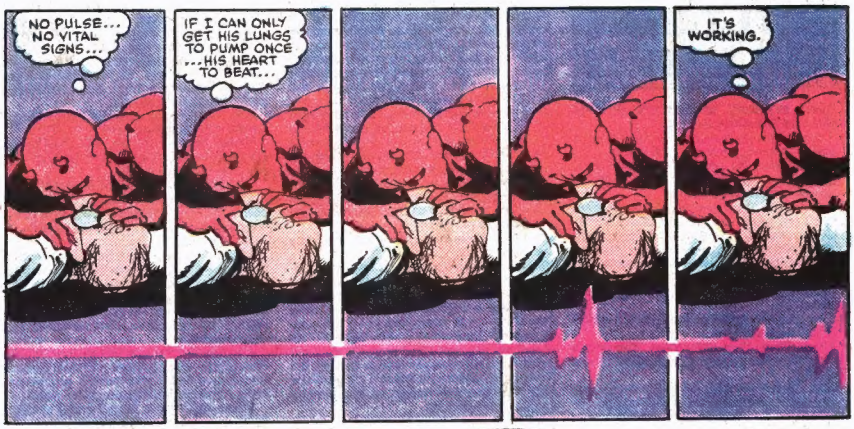
OKAY. I'LL GO. BUT WHAT ABOUT JEREMIAH ?
I'LL TELL YOU!
HE IS SMITTEN. HE HAS BEEN JUDGED. THE BOOK SAYS--
THE BOOK SAYS, "WHEREIN THOU JUDGEST ANOTHER, THOU CONDEMNEST THYSELF."
YOU'LL FIND IT SOMEWHERE IN ST. PAUL.
THE DEVIL CAN QUOTE SCRIPTURES FOR HIS OWN PURPOSE.
HOW IS HE?
SWEET SMELLING CANDLES...
DELIRIOUS. I'M AFRAID.
OF COURSE, THE CANDLES. NAHUM SPEAKING OF JEREMIAH AS THOUGH HE'S ALREADY DEAD.
NAHUM! I KNOW WHAT YOU'VE DONE. I'LL TRY TO SAVE HIM. IF I FAIL--
--YOU'LL HAVE NOWHERE TO HIDE, NAHUM JENK... NOWHERE AT ALL.

IT IS TWILIGHT AS DAREDEVIL APPROACHES THE ESTATE OF JEREMIAH JENK, SOME 40 MILES DISTANT, WHERE...
DAREDEVIL!
SOUNDS LIKE MARVIN THE TOOTH--ONE OF THE KINGPIN'S EMPLOYEES.
AND I SENSE A SECOND PLAYMATE TO HIS LEFT.
NEXT TIME I MEET THE KINGPIN, I'LL ASK HIM TO EXPLAIN HIS INTEREST IN THIS. BUT NOW--
WOULD YOU GENTLEMEN CARE TO STEP ASIDE?
THE BOSS SAYS NOBODY GITS INSIDE... INCLUDIN' YOU.
SPECIALLY HIM!
I DON'T HAVE TIME TO ARGUE--
SOK
SOK
--I MAY ALREADY BE TOO LATE!
AND IF I'M NOT, I PROBABLY WILL BE UNLESS I REACH HIM BEFORE DARK.

LET ME PAST, PLEASE. I DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU--
--AND YOUR FATHER IS IN TERRIBLE DANGER.
FROM YOU!
NOT FROM ME. LET ME EXPLAIN--
FOR 70 YEARS THE CONGREGATION HAS BEEN WANTING TO KILL HIM, BUT THEY COULDN'T! HE WAS A MAJOR CRIMINAL...TOO WELL PROTECTED...
A FEW MONTHS AGO, HE FINALLY GAVE THEM THEIR OPPORTUNITY. HE SENT YOU TO BUY CANDLES FOR HIM--
--CANDLES MADE BY THE CONGREGATION ...ACTUALLY DEADLY WEAPONS.
I SMELLED THEM LAST NIGHT...AND NOTICED THE ODOR WAS ACRID!

ON THE WAY HERE, I FIGURED OUT WHAT THAT SMELL HAS TO BE--
--ARSENIC TRIOXIDE... A POISON USED TO MAKE THE CONGREGATION'S GLASS!
EVERY NIGHT... WITH EVERY BREATH HE TAKES ...YOUR FATHER IS SLOWLY KILLING HIMSELF.
THOSE CANDLES ARE THE CONGREGATION'S INSTRUMENTS OF EXECUTION!
CAN'T YOU UNDERSTAND?
NO, YOU CAN'T.
AIR'S GOTTEN COLDER... THE SUN IS DOWN...

...HE'LL BE ALONE IN THE CANDLELIGHT--
--SO I MAY NOT HAVE A SECOND TO WASTE!
KHRASSH
JENK! JEREMIAH JENK!
HE'S STILL. HE'S NOT BREATHING!
HE'S DEAD.
BUT HIS SKIN IS WARM. THERE'S A CHANCE--
--IF I CAN GET HIM OUT OF THIS FOUL ATMOSPHERE.
YOUR FATHER'S ILL! RUN...GET A DOCTOR!
HURRY!


NO PULSE... NO VITAL SIGNS...
IF I CAN ONLY GET HIS LUNGS TO PUMP ONCE ...HIS HEART TO BEAT...
IT'S WORKING.

WELCOME TO THE LAND OF THE LIVING, JEREMIAH!
A DEVIL! I GUESS I SHOULDN'T BE SURPRISED... THE KIND OF LIFE I'VE LED.

FORGIVE ME. I SHOULD THANK YOU--AND INSTEAD I JOKE.
YOU'VE BEEN POISONED, THE CANDLES. I THINK NAHUM'S RESPONSIBLE.
NAHUM? WELL! I HAVEN'T THE ONLY DEVIOUS MIND IN THE FAMILY.

HE COULD BE IN CUSTODY IN AN HOUR AND MURDOCK COULD HELP YOU PREFER CHARGES--
NO. NO LAW. NOT FOR AN OLD CRIMINAL LIKE ME. I HAVE A BETTER PLAN.

BOY...HITCH THE BUGGY.

YOU MENTIONED A PLAN.
YES. JUST BEFORE I SLEPT A WHILE AGO, I HAD A REALIZATION.
I REALIZED THAT FOR A FULL 70 YEARS, I'VE BEEN RUNNING--
--AND IT'S HOPELESS. NAHUM AND THE CONGREGATION AND THEIR ALLIES--DEMONS OR ANGELS OR WHATEVER THEY MAY BE -- MISTER, THEY'LL CHASE ME PAST THE DOOR OF DEATH ITSELF.
SO I'M GOING TO THEM. I'M RETURNING HOME.
NOT TO CONFESS MY LIFE OF CRIME AND SIN AND CERTAINLY NOT TO PLEAD FOR THEIR MERCY. THEY'VE LITTLE ENOUGH OF THAT, TO BE SURE--
--AND LESS FORGIVENESS. NO, I'LL SIMPLY PRESENT MYSELF AND LET THEM DO AS THEY WILL.
TAKE THESE. A GIFT. A SOUVENIR.
NOT THAT IT MATTERS BUT...DO YOU UNDERSTAND?
MAYBE BETTER THAN YOU DO AT THIS MOMENT. YOU'RE TAKING RESPONSIBILITY, AREN'T YOU? FOR EVERYTHING YOU'VE DONE.
YOU'RE DOING WHAT WE ALL HAVE TO DO, FINALLY--
--PASSING JUDGEMENT ON YOURSELF.
"AND HE LOOKED FOR JUDGEMENT BUT BEHOLD OPPRESSION; FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS, BUT BEHOLD A CRY."
END

BULLPEN BULLETINS

GOOD MORNING, AFTERNOON, OR EVENING AS THE CASE MAY BE!

Welcome to my first-ever *interview* in this column. I'm asking questions of the man who has more copies of his work in print than any other human being in the history of the world, Marvel super-pro inker, *Vince Colletta.*

J.S.: *Let's see... you've been inking since 1950, and you're very fast and prolific... so, including international reprints of your comics and your newspaper strip work, I figure that your copies-in-print total goes well into the* billions.

Vince: Yeah... well, I never had a day without work... and I never had to ask for a single one of those jobs.

J.S.: *You know you've made it when editors come to you with jobs.*

Vince: I never let an editor down... I never let a company down. I always give my best work and on time.

J.S.: *Back in the days when Marvel ran polls wherein the readers voted for their favorite writers and artists, you often finished first or second against impressive competition. You must have been doing great work. I always liked your stuff — especialy those issues of* Thor *you inked back in the 1960's!*

Vince: Thanks.

J.S.: *Has anyone ever told you that you look like a Mafia Boss?*

Vince: Back when Stan Lee was doing your job he once printed photos of all the artists in the comics one month. After he saw how my picture came out he called me up and asked me to come back and get another picture taken. He thought I looked too much like a gangster. He didn't want me to scare the kids... or their parents.

J.S., *Is it true that you know the guy who played* Columbo *— Peter Falk?*

Vince: I met him back when I had a photography studio, besides inking comics. Because I photographed a lot of actors, actresses, and beautiful models for magazines and for their portfolios, I met a lot of people who became famous — like George Maharis, James Farrantino...

J.S.: *You're known for your beautiful women... inking wise, I mean. Everybody says that you're one of the best for inking strips featuring female characters. I guess photographing all of those models and actresses helped.*

Vince: Yeah.

J.S.: *What's your philosophy about inking?*

Vince: Well, first of all, some inkers like to pick and choose... they'll only do certain jobs over certain pencilers... and they'll take their time, no matter what the deadline is, even if the editor is in a jam, or a colorist is waiting for pages to come in so they can earn a living, too. I can't be that way. I like to feel that I'm part of the team, and we're all in the game together. If the editor asks me to ink a story by, say, a young, inexperienced penciler who still has some rough edges to his work, I'll *do* it and I'll do the best I can. It might not come out quite as good as a job that I'd inked over by John Buscema... *it can't.* No way. But, I'd rather give it a try to help out the new guy, the editor, and the team than pick and choose jobs that will make me look good.

J.S.: *Explain how the pencils affect the way the inking comes out.*

Vince: The readers only see the *ink.* All the pencil lines are covered by the inker's inklines. Once the book is printed, no one can tell what the pencil drawings looked like before the inker inked them. They might have given you a tightly rendered face, for instance, or maybe just an oval shape with smudges about where the eyes and mouth go. If he gives you precise drawing, the finished, inked head will look like the penciler's style. If he gives you an oval, you're really getting the inker's drawing.

J.S.: *It's up to the editor to make sure that the penciler has held up his end. Still, I know, that in a story which might have 150 separate panels, even the best pencilers might blow a few panels.*

Vince: I think the inker should follow the penciler's style and try to make it come through. A lot of inkers these days overpower the pencils, though. The penciler just gives them a framework and the inkers take over from there. That's okay if it's what the penciler and the editor want.

J.S.: *Sometimes it is. Frank Miller worked that way with Klaus Johnson on* Daredevil *for a while... and Walt Simonson did it with Tom Palmer on* Star Wars, *too. They really sort of stopped being penciler/inker teams and kind of melded together. Unless guys are working on that kind of basis, though, I think I agree with you — the penciler should bear primary responsibility.*

Vince: Right... since I've never worked with a penciler the way Klaus worked with Frank, I've always tried to enhance the pencils. It's not easy. Pencil drawings often have a life and a charm that can't be captured in the inking. Pencils give an infinite range of grays and tones. An inkline is either there or it's not. Sometimes it's frustrating. There have been times when I've tried to give editors jobs back. I told them, "these pencils are beautiful. Get someone better to ink them!" But, they always insisted that I do them.

J.S.: *Who's your favorite penciler? And inker?*

Vince: I have favorites, but I'd rather not say. Every guy in the business is good in his own way. They're all pros. It's like baseball — not every player can be a Reggie Jackson, but each one has a reason to be here.

J.S.: *You helped a passel of people get started in the business, right?*

Vince: Michael Golden, Bill Sienkiewicz, Danny Bulanadi, Frank Miller, Marshall Rogers... and others. I forget...

J.S.: *Which of yours did you like best?*

Vince: I've inked a lot of stories in thirty-three years. Too many to single one out. But, I'll tell you about the best day in my whole career...

J.S.: *Okay, I'll bite...*

Vince: It was the day I came back to start working at Marvel again after being with another company for a while. I'll never forget the welcome I got here in the Bullpen... it was like coming home. I feel like I'm in the major leagues again. People *care* here, about each other and about the comics.

J.S.: *You're doing* Thor, Dazzler, *and* Crystar. *Plus, since everybody loved your work on* Dark Crystal *over Bret Blevins' pencils, you two are doing a Hulk Graphic Novel together, right?*

Vince: Right. I love doing the kind of artful, meticulous linework that Bret's pencils call for. I'm looking forward to that.

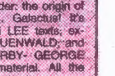
J.S.: *Me, too. Thanks, Vince!*

THAT'S IT!

Till next month when the Bullpen Bulletin returns to its usual non-interview format.

But, if you *like* the idea of reading your favorite Marvel creative peoples' answers to my occasionally intelligent questions, you'll find an interview in just about every edition of my *Bullpen Bulletin Special* which appears in all issues of *Moon Knight, Ka-Zar,* and *the Micronauts* which are on sale through subscription or at your local comics specialty shop. If you don't know where the comics shop nearest you is, write to me. I'll let you know.

Stay well,



Jim Shooter

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

- ☐ **MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE #99** — The **Thing,** and **Rom.**
- ☐ **TEAM AMERICA #12** — Double-sized *last issue!*
- ☐ **DAZZLER #26**
- ☐ **KA-ZAR #26** — Special wraparound *photo-cover*
- ☐ **NEW MUTANTS #3**
- ☐ **DAREDEVIL #194**
- ☐ **DARK CRYSTAL #2**
- ☐ **KING CONAN #16**
- ☐ **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #240**
- ☐ **CAPTAIN AMERICA #281**
- ☐ **THOR #331**
- ☐ **GHOST RIDER #80**
- ☐ **MICRONAUTS #52**
- ☐ **MOON KNIGHT #31**
- ☐ **INDIANA JONES #5**
- ☐ **U.S. 1 #1** — An all new series of truckin' adventures, by AL MILGROM
- ☐ **CRYSTAR #1** — See Hype Box
- ☐ **KULL THE CONQUEROR #1**
- ☐ **SUPER VILLAIN CLASSICS #1** — See Hype Box
- ☐ **INCREDIBLE HULK #283**
- ☐ **AVENGERS #231**
- ☐ **CONAN #146**
- ☐ **MARVEL TALES #151** — Reprints **Amazing Spider-Man #13** "The Menace of Mysterio!", *by* STAN LEE and STEVE DITKO.
- ☐ **X-MEN #169**
- ☐ **ROM #42**
- ☐ **POWER MAN/IRON FIST #93**
- ☑ **G.I. JOE #11**
- ☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR #254**
- ☐ **MARVEL TEAM-UP #129** — **Spider-Man and the Vision.**
- ☐ **IRON MAN #170** — See Hype Box
- ☐ **PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #78.**
- ☐ **DEFENDERS #119**
- ☐ **STAR WARS #71**
- ☐ **MASTER OF KUNG FU #124**
- ☐ **THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE #5**

MARVEL MAGAZINES

- ☐ **SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #87**
- ☐ **CRAZY #94** — The last laugh: Crazy's *final issue!*
- ☐ **BLIP #2**
- ☐ **MARVEL AGE #2**
- ☐ **MARVEL FANFARE #8**
- ☐ **EPIC #17**

SPECIAL EVENTS

- ☐ **WARLOCK #6** — The *conclusion* of the Warlock saga!

EPIC COMICS

- ☐ **DREADSTAR #3**

THE HYPE BOX

SUPER VILLAIN CLASSICS #1 — For the first time ever in chronological order: the origin of the ultimate Marvel villain... Galactus! It's based on the original STAN LEE texts, expanded by editor MARK GRUENWALD; and the art is vintage JACK KIRBY/ GEORGE KLEIN-VINCE COLLETTA material. All the fearsome facts about the world devourer — here! A worthy addition to any collection.

CRYSTAR #1 — Created by MARK GRUENWALD, RALPH MACCHIO, JIM SHOOTER, and JOHN ROMITA JR., the legendary kingdom of Crystalium is brought to full life by writer JO DUFFY, penciller BRET BLEVINS, and inker VINCE COLLETTS (remember Bret and Vince's *Dark Crystal?*). Once you enter this new realm of fantasy, you may never want to leave.

IRON MAN #170 — As if the job DENNY O'NEIL, LUKE McDONNELL and STEVE MITCHELL have been doing on this mag in recent months wasn't fantastic enough, this issue heralds the beginning of a new era for the golden Avenger, as alcoholism renders Tony Stark incapable of functioning as Iron Man, and the responsibility of the famous armor falls — perhaps forever — to...ah, but that would be telling.

DEVIL'S ADVOCATE

% MARVEL COMICS GROUP
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

DENNY O'NEIL
EDITOR
LINDA GRANT
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Dear Mr. Miller:

Today I purchased 15 Marvel comics. DAREDEVIL #191 was the second I read from that batch. After reading that issue I could not read any of the others. I had to think, and think deeply.

Chuckie and young Matt Murdock exist. I deal and work with them each and every day. It is a tragic fact, but almost all of the young children who suffer physical and mental abuse at the hands of their parents will still seek out these parents for love and support.

It is a monumental task to bring those children into an environment of love and caring through which they can lead healthy and productive lives. Sometimes we make it and other times we don't... but we keep trying.

Thank you for the finest comic I have read in 30 years.

Chuck LaChance
Dept. of Health and
Rehabilitative Services
Ft. Lauderdale, Fl 33311

Dear Denny and Frank:

I thought nothing could top the last few issues. That shows you how much I know.

One of the most amazing things about what Frank Miller has done to DAREDEVIL is that, after reading stories like "Roulette", you can easily see how well the character works and wonder why nobody else ever took advantage of it.

I do not think that this book is all that extraordinary. It is a simple case of somebody with a little talent finally exploring the potential that has always been there. By taking hold of the darkness everyone feels, the sadness of being all you can yet not being quite enough, this book strikes a resounding emotional chord yet remains totally entertaining. It feels good to have somebody create comics that do not preach from a soapbox or talk down to a fan. The stories are primarily there for our enjoyment — and they deliver.

Thomas Long
Rt. 3 Box 146
Edwardsville, Il 62025

Dear Denny and Frank:

#191 is the classic DAREDEVIL issue with its focus on retribution, the effects of TV violence on children, hero worship and might vs. right. The story isn't so much about the guy in the red suit — it's about living characters and human concerns. With this one story, Frank easily ranks right up there with the top writers in the field.

I'll let others compliment the artwork (and Klaus Janson has been doing fine on his own) — the white space that runs into infinity, the repetition of the image of Bullseye's eye until it blends into the silhouette of the trigger, the insignificance of Chuckie in his father's eyes, and ours, as he shrinks from the panel — these items and others are sure to be noticed by the fans. Let me say that "Roulette" is the best DAREDEVIL yet.

Kerry Lucarelli
2391 Woodland Ave.
Duluth, Mn 55803

Dear Denny and Frank:

As an avid fan of the Man Without Fear, I have quietly and sincerely enjoyed every issue of the past several years. However, issue #191 has moved me to comment, not to mention to tears. I found this soul-searching drama not only suspenseful but incredibly true to reality. How often do we find that our efforts to do good don't always have a happy ending? I read your mags to escape my reality — only to find myself wrapped up in another as vivid and real as my own.

Frank's art and storyline in #191 were superb, and a refreshing change from the intense build-up to Elektra's resurrection (I missed the script, guys). I'm hooked on some Grade A quality work. Thanks.

Miranda Burchess
1315 Morreene Rd. Apt. 24C
Durham, NC 27705

Dear Frank and all involved:

DAREDEVIL #191 is the most memorable issue I've read in recent years!

John A. Wilcox
40 Hales Court
Westport, CT 06880

Dear Sirs:

I am left feeling rather ambivalent about DAREDEVIL #191. There is nothing wrong with the flashbacks or with Daredevil's emotional upset, or the mood or the writing. What blows the whole thing is the ending.

Primarily, if there are no bullets in the gun and Daredevil knows it, then all he is doing is engaging in a sadistic joke on a helpless enemy. Few super heroes rendered effectively helpless by the most ruthless of villains have been more effectively tortured. If Daredevil's desolation is not real enough to have caused him to load the gun, why would he do such a thing? If you say that he just plain hates Bullseye enough to toy with him like that, I say he needs a major purging very soon, because this is not an admirable character any more.

Some will of course say that Bullseye deserves it, but I say that faking Russian Roulette with a paralytic is cruel and unusual. It is also just plain rotten. Daredevil has yet to redeem himself for some other bad slips as well — he needs a catharsis.

Brian Smith
DIA/CAO The Pentagon
Washington,DC 20301

Dear Frank,

Issue #191 moved me more than any comic I can remember. I really felt for poor little Chuckie. The dining scene made my guts churn. Chuckie's feelings were so aptly portrayed by receding panels and shadows that I felt like crying. Well done! This issue also gave us a peek at some of the other factors that contributed to make Daredevil the hero he is. Also, the art this issue was the best yet, and Terry Austin's inking was wonderful. Faces looked so human and every emotion was clearly discernible.

Although it's definitely a well thought out comic, DAREDEVIL doesn't appeal to my mind but goes straight to the gut. It's pure emotion and mood. This is by no means a slur. I think you've taken comics into a new realm. Instead of being just a spectator, the reader is drawn in and experiences the events, feels each punch, hears every sound. DAREDEVIL is the epitome of what comics can and should be.

David John Scherpenhuizen
Silvanushof 9
6215 RS Maastricht (Holland)

NEXT ISSUE: Heather Glenn reveals Daredevil's Identity!

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STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION
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